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Venezuela: Socialist Leader Calls for Support of Government

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[Statement by Freddy Munoz, secretary general of the Movement for Socialism -- live]

[Text] At this time, at 0435 [0835 GMT] on 4 February, I address all Venezuelans in the name of the national directorate of the Movement for Socialism [MAS]. MAS repudiates, in an absolutely emphatic way, with the greatest firmness, with the greatest democratic awareness, the attempt made by a group of coup perpetrators. MAS hereby declares its unconditional solidarity with the Venezuelan Government and with the president of the Republic who, as we know, is also commander in chief of the Armed Forces.

It declares unconditional solidarity because what we need in Venezuela at this time is absolute unity of resolve among all the democratic forces that make up an absolute majority in the country, a unity to defend the democracy that has cost us so much, that we so sorely need, that is associated and will always be associated with everything good in the course of the country's life.

We have heard the statement made by the president of the Republic. He stated the whole truth, the absolute truth, when he said he has the support of all political parties, of all social, labor, business, and cultural organizations, of all the country's civilized sectors. That is the truth.

It is also true that this is not the time to proclaim differences. Of course they exist, but over and above them is a basic, fundamental, common interest. In honor of that interest, we are making this statement. In honor of that vital interest, we decided to act alongside the government, alongside all the other political and social organizations in the country.

I urge MAS members to contact their leadership organizations immediately. I urge the leaders to place themselves at the disposal of the authorities in all the states in the country, to contribute to the defense of this democracy, to contribute to what I am sure will be an imminent and certain victory for democracy, of the government, of the people, of the country, and of the nation's hope.

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